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ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

1 A plastic hollow preform is drawn through a mold
2 passage formed in a closed mold by applying a generally constant
3 suction to a downstream end of a conduit having an upstream end
4 connected to an output end of the mold passage. A flow cross
5 section of the conduit is varied between its upstream and down-
6 stream ends so as to vary a rate at which the preform is drawn
7 through the passage by the suction. The flow cross section is
8 varied by displacing a valve element in the conduit between
9 positions in which it differently blocks flow through the con-
10 duit.